

The Melbourne Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society

Newsletter

July 2010



From the Editor

In June, Paul Herrmann from Aerosonde gave a very detailed overview of their uninhabited aircraft system, providing a very insightful look into how the aircraft has evolved, and how the company works as a business.

This month the Branch will be making a visit to the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC) at Strathmore Secondary College. Whilst the Branch has held events at the Centre before, it will be the first time members have a chance to have a tour of the multi-million-dollar facility, and have a taste of what it might be like to actually stand on Mars! Members and friends who have school-aged children (or grandchildren) are welcome to bring them along to experience this not-to-be-missed opportunity.

This month's newsletter is shorter than normal due to some last minute changes, but will be back to normal next month.

Best Regards,
Luke Webb

Branch Diary

Thurs. 5 August—Aerospace Industry (Careers) Night

Monday 16 August—Centenary of Flight Celebrations in Melbourne

Monday 13 September—Australian Hypersonic Programs

Monday 11 October—Gippsland Aeronautics

194,168,813km

Space Shuttle *Atlantis'*
final odometer reading
after 32 missions to
space, spanning 25
years of service

July Event

Site Tour of the Victorian Space Science Education Centre

Presented by: Naomi Mathers

Date: Tuesday 13th July 2010

Time: Please arrive promptly by 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start

Where: Strathmore Secondary College, 400 Pascoe Vale Road, Strathmore (VSSEC is located deep-inside the college grounds)



As part of the tour, our host will talk about recent developments at the Centre, including the launch of the exciting VSSEC Space Prize (a ten week program at one of NASA's Academies), as well as the drive for bringing engineers into schools to help positively affect the choices students make about engineering. Members and friends are encouraged to bring their children along to this event. Cameras are also welcome, as there are some unique photo opportunities whilst standing on a realistic Mars surface!!

Exciting VSSEC Event for Undergraduate Students

Mars Science Laboratory Mission: The Search for Methane and Carbonate on Mars and the VSSEC-NASA Australian Space Prize

Dr. Adrian Brown, an Australian scientist working at NASA Ames, and Dr. Jennifer Heldmann, an alumni of the Ames Academy, are visiting Australia and have made time to discuss their work, the academy program, and how undergraduate students can maximize their chances of winning the Space Prize.



The VSSEC-NASA Australian Space Prize gives an Australian university student the opportunity to participate in a 10 week NASA Academy Program and work on a current NASA project with leading scientists and engineers. The 2009 winner, Elizabeth Blaber will investigate "The Influence of Space-flight Factors on Biological Function" under the direction of Dr. Eduardo Almeida.

The Prize is open to final year and honors students. Entries are sought in five categories: Space Engineering; Geology and Planetary Geology; Biology and Human Physiology; Data Processing and Electronics; Space Physics and Astrophysics. For more details visit www.vssec.vic.edu.au

Friday 9th July (Dr. Brown & Dr. Heldmann)
6:30-7:30pm, at Victorian Space Science Education Centre
Email bookings@vssec.vic.edu.au to reserve a seat

Site Tour of the Victorian Space Science Education Centre

Hosted by

Naomi Mathers

Program Developer

Overview

The Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC) is one of three Specialist Science Centres established by the Victorian State Government, opened in 2006. VSSEC uses the context of space to engage teachers and students in the teaching and learning of science.



The flagship program, known as “Mission to Mars”, is a daylong space science experience where Year 9 and 10 students don space suits to collect samples from a realistic Mars surface, and also act as Mission Controllers in monitoring missions.

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Tuesday 13th July 2010

Please arrive promptly at the below offices by
6.15pm for a 6.30pm start

Venue: **VSSEC, at Strathmore Secondary College**
400 Pascoe Vale Road, Strathmore



If undeliverable return to:

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MELBOURNE BRANCH**

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